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NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT

1950



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. L. THORBURN

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

THE REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

E. W. BUSHELL





NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

of the

URBAN DISTRICT OF NANTWICH,

for the Year 1950,

by A. L. THORBURN, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

and the

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,

E. W. BUSHELL, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

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Health Department,  
Brookfield House,  
N A N T W I C H.

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Health Department,  
Brookfield House,  
N A N T W I C H.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Nantwich Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1950 for your information and consideration.

Our vital statistics show for this year once again there is the satisfaction of reporting a fall in the numbers of deaths from almost all diseases, cancer being an exception.

As a disease principally affecting those in the second half of life, this is, from past experience, to be expected and is the national position today.

It is most encouraging to learn that there has been no slackening in the pace of research: on the contrary there has been a greater intensification of effort of research workers than ever.

Possibly in the future, further discoveries about causation will be made and some or all of these may add to the preventive measures, with the hoped for result that the increased incidence of cancer will cease to be a penalty of growing older.

Our outlook on tuberculosis in the district is gently encouraging. This disease is always a close second to cancer in its lethal and crippling powers, and so I am most pleased to point out the good work effected in this direction is reflected in a fall in mortality rates too in the Urban District.

The greatest factor in curing tuberculosis is early recognition and a word of praise should be generously accorded to the Hospital Board's Mass Miniature Radiography Survey of the District, (a report is appended).

In young adults, by the law of averages, five cases with x-ray shadows indicating tuberculosis, will be found in every 2,000 people x-rayed at random.

It has been well said that from the purely callous point of economics it is cheaper to take 2,000 negative radiographs than to delay diagnosis of one case of pulmonary tuberculosis for three months.



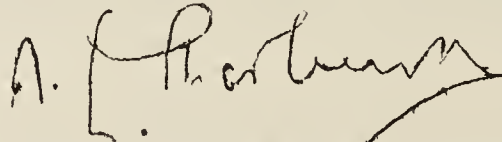
No report is complete without an acknowledgment of my indebtedness to the many who make their contribution to the public health service, and in so doing truly serve their fellow men.

It is one of the most satisfying of experiences to have assisted in the building of a great new social service designed to relieve the physical and mental suffering of our day.

May I, therefore, warmly thank members of the various committees and voluntary bodies for their help and support, and lastly, the staff of this Public Health Department for their efficient and enthusiastic co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. L. Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 1,173 acres. Estimated population at mid-1950: 9,170. Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to rate book: 2,740. Rateable value (1950/51): £48,426. Rates (1950/51): 19s. 6d. in the pound. Sum represented by penny rate (1950/51): £180.

Nantwich is an ancient town situated in the south-west corner of Cheshire and is a market town for a large and important agricultural area. The River Weaver and the Shropshire Union Canal pass through the district and in parts both form the boundary of the Urban Area.

Industrial enterprise exists mainly in the form of clothing manufacture, agricultural machinery and a tannery. There is scope for the establishment of light industries, road and rail communications being very convenient; by rail the town is served by the main lines from Crewe to Shrewsbury and Wellington and good roads radiate from the town to all parts of Cheshire, Shropshire, the Potteries and North Wales.

### Vital Statistics.

<u>Live births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate ... ..	52	71	123
Illegitimate ... ..	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL ... ..	<u>54</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>127</u>

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.84 (15.8)

<u>Still births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate ... ..	1	1	2
Illegitimate ... ..	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ... ..	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 0.219 (0.37)

Of the total live and still births, 1.55% were still births.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
TOTAL (including inward transfers) ...	<u>48</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>94</u>

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 10.25 (11.6)

<u>Deaths of infants</u> <u>(under 1 year of age)</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
TOTAL ... ..	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Death rate of infants (under 1 year of age):-

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 15.74 (29.8)  
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 16.26  
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... -

The figures in parentheses are those for England and Wales.

#### Deaths from:-

Puerperal sepsis ... ..	-
Other puerperal causes ... ..	-
Cancer (all ages) ... ..	18
Measles (all ages) ... ..	-
Whooping cough (all ages) ... ..	-
Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... ..	-
Respiratory tuberculosis (all ages) ... ..	2

The extent of unemployment in the district during the year was negligible.

### SECTION B.

#### General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. Medical Officer of Health	*A.L.Thorburn, M.D., D.P.H.	Full time
Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector	E.W.Bushell, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.	Full time
Clerical and General Assistant	M.B.Elliott	†Part time



Engineer and Surveyor

E.H.Bailey, F.R.I.C.S.,  
M.I.Mun.E., Dip.T.P.  
(Man.), A.M.T.P.I.

Full  
time

\* Jointly appointed as County Divisional Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to Nantwich Urban and Rural District Councils.

† Part time clerical assistant to Housing Manager.

## 2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are submitted to:-

- (i) Public Health Laboratories at Manchester and Birkenhead.
- (ii) Chester Royal Infirmary and City Hospital.

Water samples for chemical examination are sent to the County Analyst.

Milk and ice-cream samples for biological and bacteriological examination are submitted to the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital and the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

## (b) Ambulance Facilities.

The County Council undertakes this service through the Divisional Health Committee. There were four ambulances and one sitting case vehicle at Nantwich on a 24 hour on call basis to meet the needs of accidents, emergencies and infectious disease cases in the Division. Supplementing this work was the British Red Cross Ambulance at Haslington. There was also a "standby" taxi for sitting cases. It was found possible to discontinue these supplementary facilities during the year

The following is a summary of work done by these vehicles.

	Number of Amb- ulances	Number of Journeys		Number of Patients Carried		Accidents and Emer- gencies		Mileage	
		1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949
Divisional Ambulances	4	2913	784	3638	873	279	59	69664	30040
Divisional Car	1	425	-	415	-	-	-	11413	-
Standby Taxi & Sitting Car	-	288	593	322	594	-	-	7012	20360
British Red Cross Society	1	29	179	28	192	9	15	835	5234
TOTAL	-	3655	1556	4403	1659	288	74	88924	55634

Cases carried during 1950

Type of Case	Number	Type of Case	Number
Accidents	85	Infectious diseases	38
Acute illness	186	Mental	23
Ante-natal	10	Maternity	37
Dental	4	Maternity (Emergency)	121
Domestic helps	343	Out patients	2,720
General illness	280	Out patients (Tuberculosis)	38
Hospital discharges	301	Tuberculosis	27
Hospital transfers	48	Miscellaneous	142

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The district's nursing needs are well served by two Health Visitors and three Midwives all residing within the Urban District. There is a system of Home Helps available to the public.

It is an interesting reflection that Home Nursing has increased very little and it may well be that because the public has over the years become accustomed to the District Nurse, her services are called for only when absolutely essential. This encourages me to the belief that when the new health service and its ancillaries have lost any aspect of novelty they will be utilised in the same way to the benefit of the public.

The Home Nursing Services can, with the Home Help Service, play an important part in helping to treat patients in their own homes and reduce pressure on the hospitals. The decline in the amount of midwifery work has been influenced by the increased number of confinements in hospital. It may well be that economic circumstances will result in the limit of admissions to maternity hospitals having been reached.

The Domiciliary Midwifery Service is now very well equipped in every way and can deal satisfactorily with more than the present number of patients and can look back on a low maternal mortality rate.

However, if the present policy of Regional Hospital Boards



with regard to the increase of institutional midwifery is allowed to go unchallenged and uncontrolled, then the Home Midwifery Service will seriously wane. No public scheme can stand duplication.

(d) Consultation and Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic at The Dowery, Barker Street, is controlled by the County Council and two trained Health Visitors and School Nurses are in attendance. Visiting Clinicians examine children for defective vision and diseases of the eyes, dental surgery, diseases of the ear, nose and throat and minor ailments.

With further reconstruction these premises will incorporate an ante natal and post natal department which should prove a helpful innovation for mothers in the district; it was not possible to have the structural work commenced in 1950.

The Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic is held at the Crewe Memorial Hospital.

The Paediatric Clinic is held at the Stalbridge Road and Ludford Street School Clinics.

The Orthopaedic Clinic functions in conjunction with the Orthopaedic Out-Patient Department of the Oswestry Hospital and is held at the L.M.S. Rooms, Nantwich Road, Crewe.

The Venereal Diseases Clinic at Herdman Street, Crewe, is maintained by the County Council and serves an area including this Urban District.

(e) Hospitals.

The hospital service is now controlled by the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee.

The Barony Hospital, a former Poor Law Institution at Nantwich, serves this area to a great extent with 473 beds mainly for the chronic sick.

There is also the Cottage Hospital, a small but most modern and efficient institution, with beds for 20 patients.

The Alvaston Isolation Hospital was closed as such on the 31st of December, 1949, and infectious disease patients are now normally removed to Crewe Isolation Hospital, where there are 58 beds. These premises, with 33 beds, are to be used as a continuation hospital for acute cases in the Group, attached, for administration purposes, to Crewe Memorial Hospital, which has 110 beds, the name being altered to that of Alvaston Annexe.

The Wybunbury Cliffe Maternity Hospital, with 35 beds, provides proper and suitable amenities for mothers, although staffing such hospitals appears difficult.

Wrenbury Hall is an agricultural and industrial colony, having 50 beds, for the residential treatment of tuberculosis cases in the County who are capable of some work. These premises reverted to the Cheshire County Council in June 1949 upon the ruling of the Minister of Health that it was not a hospital.

The Smallpox Hospital at Ravensmoor was closed for the reception of patients in March 1949.

(f) Mortuary.

These premises, which were entirely unsatisfactory, were dismantled during the year to make way for houses and, for the time being, the facilities at the Barony Hospital are available by arrangement with the Management Committee.

SECTION C.

1. (a) Water Supply.

This is controlled by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board.

There is a sufficiency of water for the present needs of the existing population (drought conditions excepted), and the quality of the water as delivered to the consumer is satisfactory. Chemical and bacteriological analyses are made frequently and a summary of results is appended.

Most of the Urban District is supplied from Baddiley Waterworks; the water is pumped to Ravensmoor reservoir (capacity 250,000 gallons) gravitating from that point to the town. There is a constant supply and water is supplied direct to premises although in many instances (estimated 50 houses accommodating approximately 150 persons) it is not piped internally to individual houses.

There is a slight plumbo-solvent action; according to the analyses this has in the past varied from nil to .07 parts per 100,000 after 24 hours contact. Tin-lined lead pipes are used for house services. Occasionally there is a trace of action on aluminium and iron but not enough to be stated numerically.

The water is treated on the "Dual Coagulation" principle,



the following chemicals being added:- sulphate of alumina, sodium aluminate, sodium carbonate and hydrated lime. Following treatment the water is passed through pressure filters and chlorinated.

The quantity of water fed into the Nantwich Urban District is not separately metered so that it is not possible to give the total quantity of water provided to the town.

In 1949 the Engineer and Manager of the Water Board made the following observations in connection with the Baddiley Mere supply:-

"The quality of the raw water at Baddiley Mere is generally poor and on occasions is extremely bad. This potential danger requires very careful supervision of the treatment processes and great reliance is placed on the chlorination process for the ultimate sterilization. Owing to the small yield and poor quality of this Baddiley supply, the Board is taking steps to discontinue its regular use, and mainlaying work for this purpose will be begun in October 1949."

This proposal has proceeded but the scheme is not yet complete.

The following is a summary of results of samples submitted by the Water Board for bacteriological and chemical examination during the year.

### Chemical examination

#### Baddiley Mere - treated water

Physical Characteristics - A clear water with a slight yellowish case, free from odour and containing a slight trace of brown deposit. pH 8.8. Hazen Number 15.

#### Analytical Returns -

Total solid residue on evaporation at 103°C ... ..	340
Total hardness ... ..	170
Temporary hardness ... ..	50
Permanent hardness ... ..	120
Chlorine in chlorides ... ..	28
Heavy metals (lead, etc.) ... ..	-
Ammoniacal nitrogen ... ..	0.02
Albuminoid nitrogen ... ..	0.24
Nitrous nitrogen ... ..	-
Nitric nitrogen ... ..	4.7
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 26.7°C ... ..	2.62

Analyst's Remarks - The all round "nature, substance and quality" of this supply is so variable that comparison with previous data is neither of great significance nor help. Even when effectively sterilized and therefore rendered 'safe' for drinking, there is little to commend the use of a supply which is so unsatisfactory.

Bacteriological examination

Number submitted	Source	Number in which organisms developed on yeastrel - agar in 48 hours at 37°C.			Bacillus coli aerogenes per 100 c.c.		
		None	Pre-sent	Range per c.c.	Ab-sent	Pre-sent	Range of probable number
1	Baddiley Mere - raw water	-	1	1	1	-	-
2	Baddiley Mere - treated water	1	1	1	2	-	-
69	Baddiley Mere - consumers' taps	26	43	1 - 130	69	-	-
12	Bearstone - raw water	9	3	1 - 5	12	-	-
3	Bearstone - consumers' taps	1	2	1	3	-	-
1	Eaton - end of new main	1	-	-	1	-	-
1	Eaton - consumer's tap	1	-	-	1	-	-
89	TOTAL	39	50	1 - 130	89	-	-

(b) Sewage Disposal.

The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following information.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Windy Arbour are modern and



consist of sedimentation tanks, filters, humus tanks and sludge drying beds. The effluent is discharged into the River Weaver.

All sewage is pumped to the works from Beam Bridge Pumping Station. The storm water is dealt with at Beam Bridge Pumping Station where the storm water tanks deal with all flows above 3 d.w.f. and discharge it to the River Weaver.

## 2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Weaver flows through the district and this, along with other minor watercourses, is kept under observation for the prevention of pollution.

### 3. (a) Closet Accommodation.

All premises in the district are served by water closets with the exception of those on which the Sanitary Inspector gives details in his report under the heading "Pail Closets".

We are anxious and determined, with the support of the Council, that these insanitary conveniences shall be reduced to the greatest possible degree.

### (b) Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse, trade refuse and night-soil is controlled by the Surveyor, as also is street cleansing. Collection is by horse drawn vehicles and team labour and disposal is by tipping.

### (c) Public Baths.

The Open Air Brine Swimming Pool, owned and controlled by the Council, is open from May to September each year. The pool is 100 feet by 50 feet and is supplied with brine from the Council's brine well at the rear of the Town Hall. About 9 ounces of brine is added per gallon of water. The pool is not heated but the water is filtered and sterilized by the chloramine process and fed to the pool through a cascade. The filtering medium and chlorinator were renewed for the 1950 season. Mixed bathing is allowed and dressing boxes for both sexes are provided. Cafe facilities are available.

Samples of water were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination from the brine well and the swimming bath and satisfactory reports were received.

- (d) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- (e) Shops and Offices.
- (f) Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites.
- (g) Eradication of Bugs.
- (h) Smoke Abatement.

These matters are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in his report.

(i) Schools.

School Medical Service

I think I can say that the School Medical Service in this Division is, on the whole, in a very satisfactory state. The medical inspections are up to date, the schools inspected regularly and systematically, and there is no doubt that the children receive a great deal of individual attention from the medical and nursing staff. The response of children to summonses to attend the Clinic is always extraordinarily good. One of the main reasons, I think is that for some purpose or other I am often in the schools. It is true to say that a visit to the Clinic holds no terrors for the children, and long may this state of affairs continue.

The schools medical service has received every possible help from the teachers who have always been most co-operative and helpful and I am indebted to them for making my visits to their schools so enjoyable, and for so willingly sending children to the clinics when requested to do so.

Since the School Medical Service commenced in 1907 children in this century are physically fitter and much healthier than they were in the last century and the school health service has done much to bring this about, although when it began its work the grim effects of the industrial revolution had to some extent been reduced. In the 43 years which have since passed the death rate of children has been halved and there has been a steady improvement so that all children today are appreciably taller and stronger, and, despite the set back during the war, much cleaner in person and habits. Many diseases then common, including tuberculosis, rickets, skin disease, and infection of the middle ear, have been rapidly disappearing, deformities have become less common and with early treatment less severe. Many children who would have been prevented from taking part in various activities both in and out of school are now able to enjoy them fully. The gain has certainly been considerable but it must be realised that we are still a little way from positive health. Parents and teachers have come to



show a much greater interest and sense of responsibility in this matter. The effect of bringing together the doctor, school health visitor, teacher and parent, to discuss the health of the children has been to make them dissatisfied with a low standard of health and has convinced them that much ill-health is preventable.

A word of praise is due to the County Physical Training Specialists who have been so successful with their Danish movement on poise, strength, mobility and agility.

### School Buildings

The cost of rebuilding and reconditioning defective schools is heavy and the problem of financing them more apparent in such times of **stringent** economy and has been a continuous factor in restricting development for a great many years. It is most unfortunate that development plans in this area have suffered a serious set-back.

There should not be any lag between theory and practice. Parliament, which provided the 1944 Act, should have foreseen many of the difficulties of this legislation and made due provision accordingly. There is great dissatisfaction on the part of local authorities on the financial arrangements and, in fact, all associations of Local Authorities are united on this subject. Educationists have pointed out the fine standard of school buildings in Sweden and in Holland and I cannot disagree with that view having inspected them personally.

Schools that are overcrowded, poorly ventilated, dimly lit and without washing facilities and up-to-date sanitary arrangements, dining halls or adequate space for outdoor recreation do not teach children by example that the basis of health is organised living, with attention to cleanliness of the body, clothing and surroundings. Poor conditions in the schools, suggest rather that the way of living seen by many in their own home is the better way. The way of healthy living largely depends on health education and obsolete school buildings place great obstacles in the way of teachers who seek to change the habits of the young.

### Special Institutions

There exists a grave shortage of accommodation in special institutions; special places for those ineducable children are difficult to find as the ordinary school is quite unsuitable. It is a matter for great concern that there are now neither the staff nor the buildings to cater for the needs of these children. The problem is one to be yet solved by the Regional Hospital Board.

## School and the Young Citizen

I think that we all attach the greatest importance to that period during which the child is at school when he learns to live as a member of the community sharing its activities and learning to accept responsibility. He becomes or should become conscious of the large town or neighbourhood in which he will soon play his part. Home and school must both help him to acquire a sense of citizenship and definite standards of conduct.

It is undoubtedly true to say that nowadays as never before, youth is being well served by extra mural activities, whose value is becoming more and more recognised. The Welfare State and voluntary bodies have surely provided enough and it is now up to the child to reflect in moral character, outlook and conduct the benefits which have been showered upon him.

It seems strange in these days that a responsible body such as a certain Teachers' Association should have condemned the use of intelligence tests in the selection of Grammar School entrants.

Intelligence tests, properly devised and administered, determine the strength of a child's native mental ability and show his capacity for quick perception, deduction, reasoning and the association of ideas.

In any case, many brilliant children do not give their minds to school subjects until the work is sufficiently advanced to claim their attention. The intelligence test unfailingly picks them out.

There were no school closures during the year.

### (j) Shell Fish.

There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

## SECTION D.

### Housing.

At the present rate of building twenty years will have to pass before four million new houses are built and before every family in Great Britain will have an individual healthy home.

To enable even the present rate of 200,000 per annum houses to be maintained, the Government must solve two questions. How



can production be increased and how can costs be reduced? The level of rents is now so high that it imperils the whole declared aim of the Government's housing policy.

If the rents of Council houses are to remain at a more or less reasonable and payable level three courses are open to us. The first is to secure an increase in the Exchequer Subsidy. The second would be to gain a reduction in the rate of interest local authorities pay on money borrowed for building houses; the third and most likely in my opinion would be a reduction in the accommodation of the houses plus a careful review of their amenities.

The second report of the Girdwood Committee points out that no recommendation could be made which would substantially reduce costs "while present standards of size and equipments are maintained."

A change of outlook is not necessarily always progress but a fresh approach should be welcomed. The winning scheme for design of a traditionally built and comfortable terrace house for a family of five at a cost of £950. 0s. 0d. was recently seen at the Housing Centre in London. Savings have been made in eliminating one water closet, cutting down ceiling heights in bedrooms to 7½ feet and abolishing excessive landings and halls. The overall size is 780 square feet and compares favourably with that of 800 square feet, the 1938 - 9 standard. A comparison of the capital cost with that of the 1,050 square feet houses of today shows that three such houses can be built and three families housed for the cost of the present two - net rental of 11/- as against that of 16/- exclusive of rates.

No one would willingly lower standards of accommodation but one must now face realities and be fair to those in the housing queue.

It is no longer the ideal but the level of costs as reflected in rents and rates by other rate payers which must govern policy temporarily and the high rents of Council houses have become a most important factor for tenants when attempting to meet their cost of living.

I think it can be agreed that a general approach to housing on these lines could mean that our limited resources of labour and material would go further and achieve more for the unfortunates on the housing list.

Whilst I am talking in this strain on housing there is no doubt that Parliament will be forced to pass a de-Restriction Act to allow increases in rent on private properties. After the first world war the 1920 Act permitted an increase in rent of 40% subject to the carrying out of repairs.

Thirteen different Acts govern rent restriction today and they give to this branch of the law, closely affecting the lives and interests of millions of citizens, great complexity. The Ridley Report castigates them as a "chaos of overlapping statutes", whilst an eminent K.C. recently referred to them as "a welter of chaotic verbiage".

Over 98% of the houses in the country are subject to rent control and a cynic might note that tenants are far more numerous than landlords, a point not without importance in these days of universal suffrage.

Since 200,000 houses become obsolete or uninhabitable every year through the difficulties and problems of repair and maintenance, this rent restriction is evidently a mighty factor in causing housing shortage.

Builders are unwilling to invest their capital unless they can be assured of a reasonable return for their money and this is not provided at the present level of controlled rents. Therefore, as soon as they secure vacant possession, landlords put up their houses for sale rather than let them at uneconomic rents.

Owners all over the country are unable to repair their properties and frequently a whole year's rent is inadequate to meet the current costs of repairs.

A recent case can be cited which illustrates the present extraordinary position. In a certain borough, four houses were let at an inclusive rent of 9/- per week. The owner had to spend the equivalent of seven years' rent on repairs. Shortly afterwards the houses were inspected by the Sanitary Inspector who required a further expenditure of £100. Rather than incur this additional loss the owner decided to give the houses away!

#### SECTION E.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food, Milk Supply, Meat and Other Foods.

These matters are fully covered in the Sanitary Inspector's report. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.



SECTION F.

1. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year. All the scarlet fever cases were admitted to hospital.

Disease	Age Groups							TOTAL
	0/1	1/3	3/5	5/10	15/25	35/45	45/55	
Measles	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	5
Whooping cough	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Scarlet fever	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	5
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pemphigus neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	1	5	2	4	1	1	1	15

The benefit of the prolonged campaign in connection with immunisation against diphtheria is now becoming manifest. For the fourth year in succession this disease has failed to claim a victim. However, there is still room for considerable improvement in the number of children immunised at or about nine months.

The disinclination of the modern parents to have their children vaccinated in early life is strongly to be deprecated and it is remarkable that there should still be this tendency especially in view of the recent serious and sharp reminders in various districts throughout the country that smallpox is still a very highly infectious disease and one which is capable of giving rise to rapidly fatal illness in the unvaccinated individual.

A free scheme for protection against whooping cough, similar to that for diphtheria, is available.

## 2. (a) Prevention of Blindness.

There was no special action by the Local Authority during the year.

## (b) Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 - tuberculous persons in milk trade - or section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 - compulsory removal to sanatorium.

After the death of a patient or removal to sanatorium, all bedding, rooms, etc. were disinfected.

### New cases and mortality during 1950

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	5	4	-	-	1	1	-	-
TOTAL	9		-		2		-	

All deaths were notified cases.

Register of cases

	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases on register at 1st January, 1950	25	14	10	9	35	23
Cases notified for first time during year	5	4	-	-	5	4
Cases removed during year - died, removed from district, etc.	3	4	-	-	3	4
Cases on register at 31st December, 1949	27	14	10	9	37	23

The following is a report upon the radiography survey carried out on the district by the Regional Hospital Board during the year.

MANCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit,  
Shaw Heath Hospital,  
STOCKPORT.

REPORT ON THE SURVEY OF NANTWICH.

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A mass miniature radiography survey was carried out in Nantwich from the 14th November, 1950 to the 27th November, 1950.

All firms employing fifty or more persons, were, in the first instance, circularised with a view to participating in the survey and with the exception of two firms, all co-operated. In all, arrangements were made with twenty-five firms for their employees to attend the Unit at one or other of the two centres - mainly on the premises of Messrs. R. Dewhurst Ltd., who very kindly placed their premises at the disposal of the Unit and on whose premises the public sessions were conducted. One night session was also arranged for the benefit of the public.

During the survey the Unit was located as follows:-



Messrs. J. Rowlinson & Son, Ltd., - 14.11.50.

Messrs. R. Dewhurst & Son, Ltd., - 15.11.50. - 27.11.50.

The persons examined were, in the main, employees of the various industrial establishments, staffs of shops, offices, etc., public and utility services, individual volunteers, and schoolchildren over the age of fourteen years.

A publicity campaign was organised in co-operation with the Divisional Medical Officer, the local press, and the local cinema, to encourage the public.

The results of the survey are summarised in the following tables:-

TABLE I. - The number of persons who were examined during the survey.

	Males	Females	TOTAL
Persons employed	420	403	823
Schoolchildren	113	104	217
General public	204	462	666
TOTAL	737	969	1706

TABLE II. - The age groups of the 1,706 examinees.

	Males	Females	TOTAL
Under 15 years	59	62	121
15 - 24 years	166	482	648
25 - 34 years	176	175	351
35 - 44 years	167	130	297
45 - 59 years	147	110	257
60 years and over	22	10	32
TOTAL	737	969	1706



TABLE III. - The response of the employed persons.

	Males	Females	TOTAL
Number available for X-ray	698	555	1253
Number actually X-rayed	420	403	823
Percentage response	60.1%	72.6%	65.6%

TABLE IV. - Response - the various industrial groups.

Industry	Number available			Number X-rayed			Percentage Response		
	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	TOTAL
Garments	82	400	482	53	291	344	64.6	72.7	71.3
Food	159	67	226	115	48	163	72.3	71.6	72.1
Tanning	114	4	118	65	-	65	57.0	-	55.0
Public Services	289	26	315	159	20	179	55.0	76.9	56.8
Miscellaneous	54	58	112	28	44	72	51.8	75.8	64.2
TOTAL	698	555	1253	420	403	823	60.1	72.6	65.6

Of the 1,706 examined, 1,658 or 97.1% were classified as normal.

Of the 1,706 examined, 26 or 1.5% were classified as follows:-

TABLE V. - Classification of Non-tuberculous abnormalities.

Abnormality	Males	Females	TOTAL	Referred for further action
Abnormalities of bony thorax and lungs	6	2	8	-
Chronic bronchitis and emphysema	1	-	1	-

TABLE V. - continued.

Abnormality	Males	Females	TOTAL	Referred for further action
Broncho-pneumonia	1	-	1	1
Bronchiectasis	1	-	1	1
Pneumokoniosis	1	-	1	1
Basal fibrosis	8	-	8	-
Pleural thickening	2	-	2	1
Cardio-vascular lesions - acquired	-	1	1	-
Exostosis	1	-	1	1
Cystic disease of lung	1	-	1	1
Consolidation of unknown cause	-	1	1	1
TOTAL	22	4	26	7

Of the 1,706 examined, 18 or 10.5 per thousand were classified as tuberculosis as follows:-

TABLE VI. - Classification and Disposal of Tuberculous patients.

	Males	Females	TOTAL	Rate per 1000	Disposal
Inactive primary	3	2	5	2.9	No action taken

TABLE VI. - continued.

	Males	Females	TOTAL	Rate per 1000	Disposal
Inactive post-primary	4	5	9	5.2	7 referred to dispensary. 2 no action taken
Active post- primary	-	4	4	2.3	See separate details

The details of the active tuberculous cases are as follows:-

Female aged 19 years - no sputum present - awaiting admission to  
Sanatorium.  
Female aged 18 years - sputum negative - tuberculoma excised at  
Park Hospital, Davy-  
hulme - February, 1951.  
Female aged 23 years - sputum negative - dispensary supervision.  
Female aged 24 years - sputum negative - dispensary supervision.

None of the above cases was already on the Clinic register.

TABLE VII. - Details of schoolchildren X-rayed.

	Males	Females	TOTAL
Number X-rayed	113	104	217
Recalled for large film	-	1	1

The only abnormality found in the schoolchildren was a segmental collapse of the right middle lobe which completely resolved whilst under clinic supervision.

In addition to the 1,706 persons examined on 35 m.m. film, 66 persons were recalled for large film examination - a recall rate of 3.8%.

#### COMMENTS.

Comment may be made on:-

- 1) The fairly good average response - (65.6%) of the employed persons.



- 2) The response of the general public which was very gratifying.
- 3) The finding of four cases of active tuberculosis more than justified the visit of the Unit to the Nantwich district.

In conclusion, the Unit would like to place on record its thanks to the Nantwich Urban District Council, the Divisional Medical Officer, Dr. Thorburn, and his staff for their close co-operation during the survey.

JOHN C. MELLOR, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Medical Director.

H. WINSTANLEY,  
Organising Secretary.

18th July, 1951.

### SECTION G.

#### Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

##### Part I of the Act

- (a) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on register	Number of		
		inspec- tions	written notices	occupiers prosecuted
i. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	2	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	25	1	-
iii. Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority + (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	-	-	-
TOTAL	83	27	1	-

+ i.e. Electrical stations (section 103(1)), institutions

(section 104) and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction (section 107 and 108).

(b) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
a. insufficient	—	1	—	—	—
b. unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
c. not separate for sexes (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	4	—	—	—

Part VIII of the ActOutwork (sections 110 and 111).

Nature of work	Number of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel - making, etc.	20	-	-	-	-	-



Health Department,  
Brookfield House,  
N A N T W I C H.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Nantwich Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1950 for your information and consideration.

The work of the department has proceeded smoothly and steadily but one cannot claim spectacular results. The effectiveness of the health services, particularly that part for which I am responsible, cannot be immediately assessed but should bear reflection in the future wellbeing and happiness of the community.

The service is non-remunerative in terms of cash and consequently economies are rigidly applied where such are generally necessary. The economy axe is at the present time, unfortunately, double edged, since not only are economies necessary within the service but the people generally called upon to improve amenities and carry out improvements, whether it be in matters of housing, factories, food premises, etc., find it equally necessary to economise and often to improvise. Thus we have a tendency towards lowered standards.

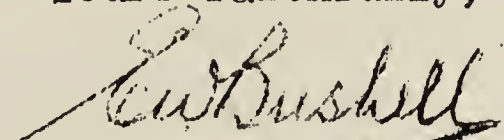
There are several directions in which I feel the desire to greater activity but this is seriously hindered by the necessity to carry out myself a considerable amount of indoor clerical work in addition to general administration. The work done by Mr. Elliott in the office is valuable but there is disadvantage in his part time allocation to the Housing Manager and myself.

I have appreciated the opportunity of attending conferences of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Association. Such meetings are of great value not only for the material contained in the agendas but for the personal contacts and exchange of information and experiences which no formal reports record.

In the course of the year I have continued to make myself available where requested to address organised bodies on matters connected with local government services.

In submitting the following details and observations I would place on record my appreciation of the tolerance and co-operation of Councillors and Officials.

Yours faithfully,

  
Sanitary Inspector.

I. NUMBER AND NATURE OF VISITS MADE.

Appointments - contractors	20
- owners	44
Courts, passages and streets	5
Dairies and cowsheds	11
Disinfections	14
Disinfestations	2
Drain tests	10
Dust bins	284
Dwellinghouses - Housing Act	17
- Public Health Acts	44
Factories - mechanical	25
- non-mechanical	2
- outworkers	1
Food inspection	55
Food premises - general	27
- registered	14
House drainage	170
Housing - individual unfit houses	9
- visits to applicants for Council houses	2
Ice cream sampling	3
Infectious diseases - primary	7
- secondary	16
Keeping of animals	16
Licensed premises	10
Miscellaneous	109
Moveable dwellings	21
Offensive accumulations	8
Offensive trades	1
Offices	2
Pail closets	39
Public conveniences	3
Reinspections - Housing Act	2
- Public Health Acts	155
Rivers, ditches and watercourses	7
Rodent control	49
Shops Act, 1934	4
Slaughterhouses	1
Smoke observations	1
Verminous premises	4
Water closets - substitution of	100
Water sampling	4
T O T A L	<u>1,318</u>

II. NOTICES SERVED.

<u>Public Health Act, 1936</u>	<u>Served</u>	<u>Complied</u>
Informal	294	282



Public Health Act, 1936

					<u>Served</u>	<u>Complied</u>
Formal	- section 39	...	...	...	7	3
	- section 40	...	...	...	3	1
	- section 44	...	...	...	2	-
	- section 56	...	...	...	4	-
	- section 93	...	...	...	11	5
					27	9

Factories Act, 1937

Informal	...	...	...	...	2	3
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Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and  
Infestation Orders

Informal	...	...	...	...	17	1
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Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Informal	...	...	...	...	2	3
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Municipal Bin Scheme

Intimations served re dust bins	...	...	...	...	180	
Bins supplied under scheme - annual charge	...	...	...	...	97	
- Council houses	...	...	...	...	20	120 bins
- sales	...	...	...	...	3	(118 premises)

Compliances include notices served in previous year. Of the notices outstanding at the year end the majority are in hand by contractors.

III. DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN NOTICES SERVED.

	<u>Noted</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Brickwork and pointing - defective	16	2
Ceiling plaster - defective	13	3
Dairies and cowsheds - limewashing	-	1
Dirty conditions - bedding	1	-
- walls and ceilings	1	-
Drains - choked	12	11
- defective and/or insufficient	7	6
Drain ventilating shafts - defective	1	-
- insufficient	1	-
Dustbins - defective	180	180
- insufficient	1	-
Factories - cleanliness	-	1
- defective sanitary accommodation	1	1
- inadequate sanitary accommodation	-	1
- ventilation	-	1



	Noted	Remedied
Fireplaces - defective	8	6
- defective and/or choked flues	3	3
- defective ovens	3	2
- miscellaneous matters	1	2
Floors - damp	1	-
- defective paving	8	6
- defective woodwork	10	6
Food premises - light	-	1
- refuse storage	1	1
- ventilation	-	2
- washing facilities and hot water	1	2
Keeping of animals - cleanliness	1	1
- too near to dwellings	1	-
- unsuitable conditions	1	1
- unsuitable drainage	-	1
- unsuitable midden	1	1
Miscellaneous	14	6
Offensive accumulations	2	2
Pail closets - defective pails	1	-
- defective structure	-	2
- requiring substitution of water closets	2	19
Passages - defective paving	3	-
Rainwater downspouts - defective and/or choked	4	8
- insufficient	5	1
- ventilating drains	3	1
Rainwater gutters - defective and/or choked	10	6
- insufficient	1	1
Rivers, ditches and watercourses	-	1
Rodent infestation - mice	13	-
- rats	4	8
Roofs - defective	16	3
Sewers - private - choked	4	4
Sink and/or bath waste pipes - insufficient	1	-
Sinks - absence of	2	5
- defective	1	1
Staircases - defective treads and risers	5	-
- defective guard rails	2	-
Ventilation - insufficient	29	22
- lacking	2	-
Wallplaster - damp	14	7
- defective	19	2
Washing accommodation - defective	6	-
Water closets - defective fittings	6	1
- defective structures	12	-
- miscellaneous matters	-	2
Water supply - defective pipes	11	5
- lacking indoors	2	6
Windows - defective cills - external	4	1
- internal	2	1

	<u>Noted</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Windows - defective cords, etc. ... ..	2	-
- defective frames ... ..	32	24
Yards - defective paving ... ..	3	-
T O T A L . . . . .	<u>510</u>	<u>381</u>

Of the items outstanding in the foregoing table a large number are in hand by contractors; "remedied" items include a number which were outstanding from previous years and have been done in 1950.

#### IV. HOUSING.

Housing continues to be a major problem and one cannot feel much satisfaction with the progress possible. Apart from odd instances where premises are so structurally unsound as to constitute a danger, it has not been opportune to consider demolition, or even extensive reconditioning, and conditions have been dealt with under the Public Health Act as far as possible.

The high number of applicants having no independent accommodation of suitable standard, the slow rate of progress in building, the high cost of building and short supply of certain building materials are factors combined to retard and frustrate in one's hopes for securing a higher standard of housing for all.

The enforced deferrment of reconditioning in suitable instances means that many houses which might have been saved will, in the next few years, have to be graded as beyond repair at reasonable expense. The term "reasonable expense" cannot, in these days, bear much relation to the amount of repair necessary to render a house "in all respects fit". With rents controlled at pre 1939 level and costs still rising, it means that a couple of slates off the roof and a ceiling damaged, or a burst water pipe, choked drain or dislodged chimney pot takes the rent income for weeks or months.

The high rent of new houses is in itself a major problem. The pleasant anticipation of better conditions and amenities for the family is somewhat marred by the prospect of a rent increase from, say, 5/6 per week for a cottage to 23/- for a Council house. However justified or necessary these high costs and rents may be, they are a problem to tenants, landlords and local authorities as part of the vicious pattern of modern times and the evolution of a reasonable solution would be an important and welcome contribution deserving the gratitude of all concerned.

Site works have continued in connection with Marsh Lane estate and building of permanent houses proceeded at Hillfield.



Station View, London Road and Shrewbridge Road. Development of The Mount site for private building plots was continued and several plots have been developed. By the end of the year the total of post-war Council houses was brought up to 270 including 50 temporary houses and 12 flats. There were 84 brick houses and 12 flats under construction at the end of the year. Ten houses were completed by private enterprise and seven were in process of building. The principle of building flats was implemented at the London Road and Hillfield sites.

Demolition Orders were made on four houses which were in a very bad state. Two other unfit houses were dealt with and undertakings were accepted from the owners that the houses would not be relet. Two unfit houses were vacated during the year.

Application was considered for grants for the improvement of six Almshouses under the Housing Act, 1949. The proposed improvements would leave the houses still below the standard of fitness outlined by the Ministry and it was not possible to recommend a grant. These houses, which are more than 300 years old, are scheduled under the Town and Country Planning Act and the possibility of assistance from other sources is under investigation by the Trustees.

The Housing Manager's application register for Council houses stood at more than 400 at the end of the year and the "points scheme" for the selection of tenants operated as the main basis for selection: several applicants were selected or upgraded on special grounds.

The close liaison between the Housing Manager, the Medical Officer and myself concerning applicants under bad conditions or having communicable disease in the family or being statutorily overcrowded has continued.

#### V. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of "notifiable" diseases were visited as soon as possible after notification; in the instance of measles and whooping cough a leaflet is sent to the parents advising on isolation and exclusion of contacts from school. Head teachers are advised of the occurrence of cases of scarlet fever, etc.

The numbers of cases of diseases notified during the year were five cases of scarlet fever, five of measles, two of whooping cough, one of pneumonia, one of puerperal pyrexia and one of pemphigus neonatorum.

There were nine cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.



Where necessary the disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out, the latter being usually removed to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

The diphtheria immunisation scheme has been operated by the County Council. Every opportunity is taken to encourage parents to have children treated. The value of such a scheme is reflected in the absence of cases during the year.

## VI. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLY.

The responsibility for administration and control of milk production and licensing of producers of designated milks passed in 1949 from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council became responsible for control and licensing of pasteurising and sterilising plants. This leaves the district councils with the control of distributors of milk and licensing of dealers. Sterilised milk also became a recognised official designation.

The effect of the new regulations will be cumulative towards a safer milk supply by co-operation with the Ministry Officials. It is regrettable that, as one understands the position at present, undesignated farm premises are not subject to visiting by the Ministry.

The Agricultural Executive Committee Milk Testing Advisory Officer takes samples from producers and retailers, but results are not available for quotation. The County Council samples milk at pasteurising and sterilising depots.

There were at the end of the year twelve distributors of milk and seven dairy premises on the register. The following licences, issued by the Local Authority, were in force during the year.

Dealers' Licences to use designation		
	"Tuberculin Tested" ... ..	6
Dealers' Licences to use designation		
	"Pasteurised" ... ..	4
Supplementary Dealers' Licences to use designation		
	"Tuberculin Tested" ... ..	3
Supplementary Dealers' Licences to use designation		
	"Pasteurised" ... ..	3

## VII. BAKEHOUSES.

There are twelve bakehouses on the register and these are visited periodically under the Food and Drugs Act and the Factories Act.

#### VIII. SHOPS ACT.

All existing legislation has been consolidated and the Shops Act, 1950, came into force on October the 1st, 1950.

There were no complaints in connection with the ventilation, temperatures and sanitary conveniences in the shops which number approximately 200. Steps were taken to improve the ventilation of one premise.

#### IX. FACTORIES.

One firm submitted returns of "outworkers" which contained details of 20 persons engaged in the finishing of clothing. The houses of the outworkers are visited occasionally and conditions noted.

It is hoped during 1951 to revise the register of factories and increase the number of visits to premises.

At one premise new water closet and washing facilities were provided.

#### X. WATER SUPPLY.

Weekly samples of the mains supply are submitted for bacteriological examination by the Water Board and these have not given cause for serious concern. A detailed summary of such samples is contained in the Medical Officer's report.

#### XI. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

One trailer caravan and temporary building were licensed as a dwelling during the year. No nuisance has arisen from the use of these structures.

#### XII. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There was one complaint in connection with the Fellmongery during the year but none concerning the Tannery. The complaint referred to migration of maggots and percolation of liquor to adjoining premises. Suitable steps were taken to remove the nuisance.

Periodic treatment was carried out at both premises for the control of rats and mice.



### XIII. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no premises of this character in the district.

### XIV. CANAL BOATS.

No complaints were received and no inspections were made during the year.

### XV. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There was no occasion for formal action during the year.

### XVI. SCHOOLS.

No complaints were received as to the sanitary condition of schools.

The practice of notifying head teachers of the incidence of infectious diseases has been continued.

### XVII. LICENSED PREMISES.

Work proceeded at three public houses on structural alterations. New modern toilet accommodation was provided for both sexes at two of these premises and the same improvement is intended at the third. In one instance the improvement enabled abolition of pail closets. The work at two of these houses included improvement in bar, sink and drainage facilities.

At a licensed club premises the pail closet was abolished and improvement was effected by provision of indoor water closet, urinal and washbowl facilities.

Revised proposals for the improvement of amenities at one public house are under consideration.

### XVIII. VERMIN.

No serious complaints were received during the year. In several instances advice was given to occupiers to deal with minor infestations with ants and cockroaches and insecticidal powder was supplied in some cases.

### XIX. ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Two premises were treated, both being privately owned.



"Zaldecide" liquid insecticide, containing D.T.T., was used and the premises treated are under observation.

Where considered necessary the belongings of selected tenants for Council houses are treated before moving into the houses. A limited amount of treatment is carried out for tenants of occupied premises, but the owner is held responsible for the treatment of unoccupied premises. Treatment is carried out by direct labour under my supervision.

#### XX. RODENT CONTROL.

One part-time operative works under my supervision in this matter. There was no occasion for formal action during the year. The Council tips and sewage works are regularly treated and, during the year, the systematic treatment of the sewerage system was continued. A test baiting of the sewers showed very little evidence of infestation apart from the sewage works. The baits used in treatment have been sausage rusk and bread mash and these have been poisoned with zinc phosphide, red squill or arsenic.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into force on March 31st, 1950, and the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, was repealed. The local authority is now fully and directly responsible for the work of rodent control in the district.

Occupiers of infested premises have the opportunity of dealing with rats and mice or alternatively having the service provided by the local authority. In all cases, including private dwellings, the costs incurred, plus an establishment charge, are recovered: no fixed contract charges are entertained. In connection with agricultural premises it is possible for the occupier to contract with the Agricultural Executive Committee for service.

An order was made under the Act concerning the threshing and dismantling of ricks and the occupiers of all agricultural holdings were circularised with advice upon this matter.

Private annual treatment agreements in force	...	...	...	14
Short term private agreements for treatment in force	...	...	...	14

#### Nature of Infestations

	Rats	Mice	Rats and Mice	TOTAL
Local Authority properties (including sewers)	4	2	4	10

	Rats	Mice	Rats and Mice	TOTAL
Business premises ... ..	3	6	14	23
Dwellings ... ..	5	18	4	27
TOTAL ... ..	12	26	22	60

Premises treated by Nantwich Urban District Council				
during the year - Council properties ...				5
- Council tips ... ..				3
- sewage works ... ..				1
- sewerage system ... ..				1
- business premises ... ..				23
- dwellings ... ..				10
Total premises visited in inspection or treatment ... ..				63
Visits by operative to premises in survey and treatment ...				750
Visits by officer to premises in survey and supervision ...				49
Premises showing no evidence upon survey ... ..				3
Premises showing clearance after treatment ... ..				12

Councillors Whitlow and Blagg and I have continued to serve on the Workable Area Committee. Councillor Whitlow and I have also served on the Regional Consultative Committee and have attended all meetings held during the year.

#### XXI. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

There were 19 Slaughtermen's licences in force during the year.

#### XXII. PAIL CLOSETS.

Some further progress has been made in the substitution of water closets for pail closets; 19 pail closets were replaced by water closets, two were abolished and work was in hand at the end of the year in connection with several other cases upon informal request.

Where appropriate, the Council have contributed to the cost of substituting water closets, such contributions not exceeding one half of the cost. The costs have been high in some cases because the position and depth of the drains existing was such that new structures had to be built.



In 1945 there were 133 pail closets in use and this number has been reduced to 58 of which 49 are emptied at weekly intervals by the local authority. In response to applications for financial aid the Council has made grants in 33 instances ranging between £5 and £20. The conversion or abolition of 77 closets in the past five years has been achieved by informal negotiations.

The following is the position at the end of 1950:-

Insanitary and unuseable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
In connection with unfit houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Beyond reach of sewers - extension impracticable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
- extension practicable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Within reach of sewers but premises not drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
to sewers at present	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
At premises where drainage outfall requires investigation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suitable for substitution of water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Total known to exist at beginning of 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Additions to register on further survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Abolished during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closets substituted during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total known to exist at end of 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58

### XXIII. GENERAL SANITATION AND NUISANCES.

At three houses, hitherto having only drains for sink waste matter discharging to a ditch or land drains, complete new systems of drainage were installed with connections to the main sewer, including substitution of water closets for the pail closets. In connection with five houses, indoor sinks were fixed and in six cases outdoor standpipes were abolished and replaced with mains indoor supply taps over sinks. At 17 premises the drains were reconstructed. An additional water closet was provided at each of five premises and bathroom accommodation was provided at two houses. New toilet accommodation was provided at three licensed premises and one factory.

This was the first complete year for the Municipal Bin Scheme and 97 bins were supplied in connection with which the annual charge of 5/- each is to be made. A further 20 bins were supplied to Council houses as a direct charge to the Housing Repair Fund. Three bins were sold to a fishmonger for the storage of offal waste. 60 bins were renewed privately by owners in response to informal requests.

I remarked last year that "the problem of refuse storage, collection and disposal is one of great importance in environmental hygiene, but as it is an unsavoury and non-productive activity there is perhaps the tendency to overlook



that importance."

The Surveyor is responsible for collection and disposal, but, in connection with what is essentially a health service, it is, to the sanitarian, retrograde to depart from the minimum of once weekly collection of refuse, but economies have driven the Council to experiment in a system involving longer intervals. The method of disposal is not "controlled" in the truest sense of the term owing to labour costs and problems.

One would not suggest a policy of squandermania but the value of services in the cause of hygiene is not to be measured in terms of pounds, shillings and pence but in the welfare of the community. The suggestion that transport should be mechanised is to be investigated and it is possible that such a course will provide some solution towards restoring the minimum weekly collection.

Trade refuse produced at certain premises such as green-grocers and fishmongers should, particularly in the summer period, be removed at more frequent intervals to prevent offensive accumulations and congregation of flies.

#### XXIV. RIVER POLLUTION.

There has been no occasion for action during the year and there is nothing further to report concerning the Gas Board and the disposal of gas liquor.

#### XXV. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The slaughter houses in the district have not been normally used during the year, all "butchers' meat" being prepared and distributed from Crewe. One premise was licensed upon application for the purpose of slaughtering pigs by self suppliers. Although there is no statutory control over slaughter of animals of which the meat is not intended for sale, the arrangement with the owner of the slaughterhouse to which pig owners are directed by which I am notified of all animals for slaughter and owners are advised of my offer to examine the carcasses has continued. I have so far had no objection to this arrangement.

Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were approved without alteration and a copy has been supplied to each trader.

The Medical Officer and I pursued the possibility of a Clean Food Guild amongst the food traders in the town. There was a very low percentage of replies to our approach and it was apparent

that the idea did not appeal to them.

An association representing one particular section expressed support for the idea but did not feel in a position to issue or rescind certificates, preferring that the matter be left in our hands. In other words it would appear that in a small community traders are not disposed to judge fellow traders in such matters - a feeling which is perhaps understandable.

In view of the activities of Working Parties concerning certain aspects of the food trade and the operation of the Byelaws it seems inadvisable to press the suggestion at present. One can hope that the reports and recommendations of Working Parties will result in suitable amendment and extension of the law in these matters.

There is now a definitely greater public interest in the matter of food hygiene but few people seem inclined to express their feelings openly at the right time and place. It perhaps the nature of the Britisher to avoid "a scene" and put up with things so that other people's feelings are not hurt, but I feel that the general public can afford assistance to the health authorities in this connection. Tactful objection to cracked and chipped pottery, soiled table cloths, dirty finger nails, etc., and the patronising of the obviously conscientious trader can have considerable effect. It is not a privilege but a right to have clean food and clean service.

I would hasten to add that in Nantwich we have quite a good standard, but perfection has not yet been achieved in every direction.

There have been frequent requests from retailers for examination of foodstuffs and the following is a statement of goods examined.

Food examined and found fit for human consumption

One round New Zealand beef ... ..	estimated 70 lb.
Coffee ... .. 24 cans	Luncheon meat ... 133 cans
Crab paste ... 34 cans	Tomatoes ... .. 3 cans
Total estimated weight ... ..	2 cwt. 0 qr. 1 lb.

Food examined and found fit for human consumption

Apples ... .. 2 cans	Beans ... .. 3 cans
Apple puree ... 1 can	Beans in tomato . 3 cans
Apple slices ... 1 can	Beef and cereal . 3 cans
Baby foods ... 14 cans	Beef and ham ... 1 can
Bacon ... .. 9 lb. 10 oz.	Beef loaf ... .. 5 cans
Baked beans ... 3 cans	Beetroot ... .. 11 cans



Black treacle ...	1 can	Pickles ...	1 jar
Brisling ...	2 cans	Pickled onions ...	3 jars
Carrots ...	4 cans	Pilchards ...	1 can
Cheese ...	4 lb. 10 oz.	Pilchards in tomato	2 cans
Cherries ...	5 cans	Pineapple ...	2 cans
Christmas pudding .	2 cans	Plums ...	4 cans
Coffee ...	1 bottle	Plums ...	1 jar
Condensed milk ...	103 cans	Pork ...	1 can
Crab paste ...	69 cans	Pork brawn ...	1 can
Cream soup ...	2 cans	Pork sausage ...	26 lb.
Custard powder ...	1 carton	Porridge oats ...	4 packets
Grapes ...	5 cans	Prunes ...	30 lb.
Gravy browning ...	3 bottles	Red cabbage ...	2 jars
Ham paste ...	1 jar	Salmon ...	6 cans
Herrings ...	5 cans	Sardines ...	4 cans
Herring roe spread.	1 can	Sild ...	1 can
Herring spread ...	1 can	Smoked fish fillets	21 lb.
Horseradish sauce .	1 jar	Spaghetti ...	1 can
Jam ...	1 can	Spaghetti and cheese	2 cans
Kidney soup ...	3 cans	Spaghetti and sausage	1 can
Lime juice ...	1 bottle	Steak and kidney pudding	1 can
Luncheon meat ...	70 cans	Strawberries ...	1 can
Marmalade ...	3 cans	Swiss rolls ...	10
Meat and gravy ...	3 cans	Tomatoes ...	46 cans
Meat soup ...	2 cans	Tomato juice ...	4 cans
Mussels ...	12 cans	Tomato sauce ...	1 bottle
Orange juice ...	5 cans	Tomato soup ...	7 cans
Peaches ...	1 can	Veal and ham loaf .	14 cans
Pears ...	2 cans	Veal loaf ...	1 can
Peas ...	17 cans	Vegetables ...	2 cans

Total estimated weight ... 3 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb.

The carcasses and offal of 38 pigs, all slaughtered under licence by the Ministry of Food for private consumption, were examined and considered fit except for two heads and one pair of lungs.

Total estimated weight examined ... 4 tons 5 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb.  
Total estimated weight unfit ... 23 lb.

Of the pigs carcasses examined 5.36% were affected in some degree by tuberculosis.

In addition, and imported hind quarter of beef was, upon superficial examination, considered unfit for food and arrangements were made with the Ministry of Food Salvage Officer for return to the distributing depot. It was learned subsequently that the greater part of the meat had been salvaged and distributed elsewhere.

Total weight examined ... 1 cwt. 0 qr. 10 lb.  
Total weight unfit ... 24 lb.



Total estimated weight of all  
food examined ... 4 tons 12 cwt. 3 qr. 17 lb.

Three samples only of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination and the following is a statement of results. Results in connection with samples originating from other areas were referred to the health authority concerned and advice in all cases was offered to vendors concerned with a view to minimising the risk of contamination.

No.	Sample	Methylene blue reduction	Grade	Remarks
1.	Loose bulk	0 hours	4	Cold mix made by vendor
2.	Prewrapped portion	Satisfactory	1	-
3.	Prewrapped portion	0 hours	4	-

There is no legal standard for the bacterial quality of ice cream and one cannot judge a particular make by one sample. Failure of a serious of samples to reach grade one or two would indicate need for further investigation of equipment and methods of manufacture.

There is no ice cream made in the area by the "hot mix" method. Most of it is obtained in a prepacked condition from wholesale makers in other districts.

Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, has kindly given the following particulars of samples taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act during the year.

Almonds ground	...	...	...	1	Fish paste	...	...	...	...	1
Apricot jam	...	...	...	1	Liquid paraffin	...	...	...	...	1
Beef suet	...	...	...	1	Margarine	...	...	...	...	1
Boracic ointment	...	...	...	1	Meat paste	...	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	1	Milk	...	...	...	...	16
Calf feet jelly	...	...	...	1	Raspberry and black-					
Cheese	...	...	...	1	current jam	...	...	...	...	1
Cooking fat	...	...	...	1	Saccharin tablets	...	...	...	...	1
Date pudding	...	...	...	1	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	32

One sample 13.3% deficient in fat - no formal action taken - seller cautioned; one sample abnormal but genuine - no action possible.

All samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis and it is very satisfactory to note that, with the exception of the two milks referred to, each sample was either up to the legal standard or otherwise was of recognised commercial quality.

#### XXVI. SWIMMING BATHS.

During the open season samples of crude brine and the chlorinated bath water were taken for bacteriological examination. The results were highly satisfactory.

# A D O P T I V E   A N D   L O C A L   A C T S

## I N F O R C E   I N   T H E   U R B A N   D I S T R I C T

	<u>Date of adoption or when same came into force</u>
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890     ... ..	1st October, 1900
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890:    - Parts I and III     ... ..	18th July, 1894
- Part IV     ... ..	1st September, 1901
Public Libraries Acts, 1892, 1893, 1901 and (Offences) Act, 1898     ... ..	8th August, 1887
Private Street Works Act, 1892     ... ..	26th April, 1895
Nantwich Urban District Council Act, 1903     ... ..	21st July, 1903
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders (Confirmation) Number 7 Act, 1905     ... ..	21st August, 1905
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders (Confirmation) Number 4 Act, 1907     ... ..	28th August, 1907
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders (Confirmation) Number 9 Act, 1912     ... ..	7th August, 1912
Local Government Act, 1894, Section 8, s.s. 1. Powers of Parish Council as to Public Offices, etc.     ... ..	17th October, 1923
Local Government Act, 1894, Section 13, s.s. 2. Public Footpaths     ... ..	11th July, 1924
County of Chester Review Order, 1936     ...	1st April, 1936





